

# Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhood Alliance

## Ordinary Meeting

### MINUTES

Tuesday 20 December 2016, 6.00 - 8.00pm

Committee Room, Lake Macquarie City Council Administration Building, Speers Point



<b>Present:</b>	Robyn Charlton, Indra Deamer, Steve Dewar, Norbert Lica, Avril Lockton, Jean McGarry, Colin Mondy, Dot Seiffert Rachelle McConville (LMCC)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Nil

## 1 Welcome & acknowledgement of Country

*We would like to acknowledge the Awabakal people who are the traditional custodians of this land. We would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present of the Awabakal nation and extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present.*

## 2 Apologies

None

## 3 Conflict of interest

None stated.

## 4 Previous meeting

### 4.1 Ordinary meeting minutes, 15 November 2016

MOTION: *That the previous meeting minutes dated 15 November 2016, be confirmed as an accurate record.*

Moved: *Steve. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.*

### 4.2 Business arising from the minutes

- See trolley management report-back (below)
- See Australian Native Trees report-back (below)

## 5 Correspondence

- Annual Summary of Financial Affairs – sent to Dept of Fair Trading.
- Sustainable Neighbourhood News, 22 November, 15 December, and Celebration reminder, 30Nov
- Letter to Councillors suggesting that Council develop a Shopping Trolley Management Policy, along with an example from Waverley Council
- Details of our annual activities and membership – sent to Guild Insurance regarding renewal for 2017.
- Insurance Renewal Invitation from Guild Insurance.
- Nominations for Cardiff Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group (Volunteer Group) and Frank Miezsala (Environment Volunteer) submitted to the Shortland Volunteer Awards. And invitations to attend the awards ceremony were received.
- Invitation from Council for the Alliance to have a representative on the Coastal Zone Management Committee. Expression of Interest from the Alliance was submitted. Letter notifying Alliance as successful representative received from Dean Chapman.

- Invitation to join the December Plastic Bag teleconference, Boomerang Alliance.
- Notes from the group discussion at the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Celebration were circulated to participants.
- Grant Acceptances were submitted to Council for 2 Environmental Sustainability Grants (Dog Management Brochure and Dudley Community Garden Project).
- Letter from EPA responding to the Alliance's plastic pollution letters.

## 6 Treasurers report

### 6.1 Treasurer's report for November 2016

See report attached, below.

*MOTION: That the Treasurers Report is accepted.*

*Moved: Jean. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.*

## 7 For discussion & decision

### 7.1 Welcome to the Rathmines Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group

Terms of Reference and Membership Register were circulated via email.

RESOLUTION: The Alliance officially ratifies the Terms of Reference for the Rathmines Area Sustainable Neighbourhood Group and welcomes them as a new member group of the Alliance.

Moved: Robyn. Seconded: Norbert. Carried.

### 7.2 Council's Coastal Zone Management Committee

An Expression of Interest was submitted, and was successful for the Alliance to be a community group representative on Council's Coastal Zone Management Committee. The Alliance itself will hold the position, and we can delegate individual members to attend meetings as required. Colin is the group's nominee, and Robyn is the alternate representative.

RESOLUTION: Confirm that the Alliance, would be pleased to be a part of the Lake Macquarie Coastal Zone Management Committee.

Moved: Colin. Seconded: Robyn. Carried.

Robyn is available for the 2 February meeting.

ACTION: Rachelle – to circulate request to network.

### 7.3 Plastic Bag / Plastic Pollution Campaign

#### Redcycle collection points

Steve has made some progress with Coles Toronto about making redcycle collection bins more prominent. Waiting for confirmation from woollies if they are participating in Redcycle.

#### Education Days / Information booth (citywide), March / April 2017

This idea for action was discussed at the celebration event, for local groups to hold coordinated information stalls around Lake Mac (eg at supermarkets at Glendale, Charlestown, Morisset and Belmont). And develop coordinated campaign / education materials for local groups to use in their neighbourhood. Eg focus on 'replacing' plastic bags, instead of 'banning' to help get the broader public onside.

Project team are planning to meet in February. ACTION: Rachelle to help put sub-committee in touch with each other.

Consider 'reward' stickers / posters to be able to give to stores to display who are plastic free.

#### Letter to the editor

Also note Steve's letter to the editor (29 November 2016) in the Newcastle Herald, commenting on lack of action from Baird government to institute a bag ban.

ACTION: Suggestion to approach / research plastic manufacturers / packaging associations to tackle the issue from the other end. – Carry over to February meeting.

Norbert has met a representative from Coastal Springs – Opportunity to go on a tour of the factory?  
ACTION: Norbert to investigate and report back.

## **7.4 Dog Management**

### **Brochure**

Grant for dog brochure has been successful. The paperwork has now been submitted, and anticipate the funds will be available in the Alliance bank account in Dec or early January.

Funding is for 6200 brochures (LT Creek 1800; Redhead 1500; Dudley 600; Toronto Area 1500; Spares for general distribution 800).

Draft text and images are available. Indra is organising graphic design.

### **Off-leash area app**

The Redhead group has been progressing the development of an app, but the use of Council data now appears more complicated than previously assumed. Suggest setting up a meeting with relevant Council staff and group members in the new year.

### **Paper / Cardboard bags**

Paper/cardboard 'I heart my Dog' poop scoop bags. Colin contacted the suppliers in the Netherlands to see if they are available in Australia. The cost for 750 bags is AUD\$73 (= \$0.09/bag). But with the shipping it would be AUD\$204 for 750 bags (= \$0.27/bag). ACTION: Colin will follow up with manufacturers to investigate possibility of licencing a similar product in Australia. Or to find existing Australian manufacturers. Carried over from November meeting.

## **8 Requests from member groups**

8.1 Nil

## **9 Report backs from member groups**

### **9.1 Report back from Hunter Special Infrastructure Contributions Plan Workshop (23Nov)**

Robyn and Steve attended this workshop, which is part of the 'Hunter Regional Plan' process. Workshop was targeted at developers eg regarding section 94 contributions. Included opportunity to ask questions about the Awaba Conservation Area and the Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park, and talk with people about local community and sustainability issues.

### **9.2 Cardiff Christmas Car Boot Sale, 27 November**

Another excellent event. Stalls were fully booked, and they had to turn stallholders away. About 300 – 350 people attending. A group of students, teacher and parents from Cardiff High provided music and singing for about 3 hours – a good partnership for future events. Some minor difficulties with the bowling club, and some stallholders. Full report: [www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/christmas-car-boot-sale](http://www.sustainableneighbourhoods.org.au/christmas-car-boot-sale), and photos on their twitter page: <https://twitter.com/CASNG2015>.

### **9.3 Supermarket Trolleys**

Steve circulated the letter he sent to Councillors on behalf of the Alliance, suggesting that Council develop a Shopping Trolley Management Policy, along with an example from Waverley Council.

Ray Hinton spoke at a Council meeting about the Trolley Management issues.

Possible link with NRMA trolley / car damage campaign?

### **9.4 Promoting Australian Native Trees**

Suggestion to hold an education / awareness event early next year, focussed on the value of local native trees, their importance, associations, habitat etc (including street trees, backyards, remnant bushland etc.). Possibly in conjunction with Landcare, and other experts (eg Trees in Newcastle, Umwelt staff and others), possibly early next year.

Steve has been in touch with Landcare, Landcare Network and Trees In Newcastle, and they are supportive of holding a Landcare Super Saturday event focussed on native trees. (Also possible support from Transition Newcastle.)

## 9.5 Awaba Conservation Area

LT Creek SNG is advocating a Crown Land parcel of land within the Awaba Conservation Area to be formal recognised and gazetted as the Scribbly Gum Reserve. Several Members of different SNG groups have been on site. Mr Piper, A representative of The Wilderness Society and LMCC staff have also been on site. The Vision has been favourably viewed.

Research on flora and fauna is ongoing. A preliminary report has been written on the Scribbly Gum Reserve.

Correspondence has been sent to the NSW Crown Land Department about tenureship, restrictions and activities.

Hunter Bird Observers Club have completed a survey on site. And regardless of less than ideal conditions the bird count continues to grow at the Scribbly Gum Reserve.

<https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/the-scribbly-gum-centre/all-creatures-great-and-small/>

Including a threatened species bird, the Varied Sittella. Check out

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146759871@N04/albums/72157673243939574>.

The other exciting news is that the LONG AWAITED story by Evelyn G Anyon has been released! Evelyn, who is only 10, has done a great job. <https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/awaba-conservation-area/the-glinda-stories/>

ALSO those interested in Koalas in the region. THIS IS A MUST DO! Spread the word and Share the LOVE. [https://oeh.mysocialpinpoint.com/nsw-koalas#](https://oeh.mysocialpinpoint.com/nsw-koalas#/)/.

Links to the Scribbly Gum Reserve include:

- <https://www.facebook.com/scribblygumreserve>
- <https://conserwestlakes.wordpress.com/the-scribbly-gum-centre>

Glinda has now met all of LMCC Councillors. She also has a Flickr Account.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146759871@N04/albums>

She has had a photo opportunity with Santa. Went to the latest Newstan CCC, the Sustainable Neighbourhood Celebration, the last Council meeting for the year and the Origin Forum.

Landcare has mentioned the Awaba Conservation Area in their latest newsletter.

<http://lakemacquarielandcareresourcecentre.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/r/7E09E87BF95099592540EF23F30FEDED/3BC9E5E9B099F6F116FB8100885F948E>

Robyn has been invited to do a presentation at Cooranbong SNG.

## 9.6 Dudley Community Garden Grant

This grant application was successful, and the paperwork has been submitted to Council. Anticipate the funds will be available in the Alliance bank account in Dec or early January.

The grant is for \$3,000 for the group to create some signage, and run a series of workshops.

## 9.7 Report back from Sustainable Neighbourhoods Celebration event

See report in the 'Sustainable Neighbourhood News'.

Good format to hold AGM separately to celebration event.

It was good to include project planning, and didn't take away from being a celebration event as well. The planning meant that people walked away feeling accomplished from the afternoon.

Was helpful especially for the plastic pollution campaign to have volunteers from around the city put their hands up to work together as an ongoing project.

### **9.8 Sustainable Neighbourhoods review so far**

Volunteer Report has now been completed.

The schedule for the review has now been updated, as we weren't able to complete all of the proposed activities this year. In particular, the stakeholder surveys (eg Council staff and Councillors), and the participant surveys (ie people attending SN events) were not completed. These activities have now been pushed back to early 2017.

## **10 For information**

### **10.1 Insurance renewal**

Our insurance policy has been renewed for 2017.

### **10.2 Holidays**

Rachelle will be on leave from 22 December, back on 8 February 2017! For assistance during that time, contact Janet Purcell, [jpurcell@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jpurcell@lakemac.nsw.gov.au) or 4921 0074.

## **11 Meeting close.**

Next meeting date: 21 February 2017, 6-8pm

**Treasurer's Report:**

**LAKE MACQUARIE SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS ALLIANCE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**1 November, to 30 November, 2016.**



Account 06 2806 10352969 with Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Charlestown Branch.

**Balance** **\$ 19,000.05CR**

**RECEIPTS**

Interest 0.64c

Total Receipts \$ 0.64c

**EXPENDITURE**

Total Expenditure \$ NIL

**BALANCE** **\$ 19,000.69CR**

This is a true statement of accounts for the Lake Macquarie Sustainable Neighbourhoods Alliance for the period 1 November to 30 November, 2016.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Name Jean McGarry

Title Hon Treasurer

Date 15 December, 2016.